

United States Department of Agriculture

JUL 17 2012

Office of the Secretary Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Jeremiah W. Nixon Governor State of Missouri Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

Thank you for your letter of July 10, 2012, requesting a disaster designation for all Missouri counties due to losses caused by drought and related disasters that have occurred during the 2012 growing season.

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and has determined that there were sufficient production losses in Missouri to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 97 Missouri counties as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by drought and excessive heat that occurred during the period of April 1, 2012, and continuing. Those counties are:

Adair	Cole	Iron	Moniteau	St. Charles
Andrew	Cooper	Jackson	Monroe	St. Clair
Atchison	Crawford	Jasper	Montgomery	Ste. Genevieve
Audrain	Dade	Jefferson	Morgan	St. François
Barry	Dallas	Johnson	Newton	St. Louis
Barton	Daviess	Knox	Nodaway	Saline
Benton	De Kalb	Laclede	Oregon	Schuyler
Boone	Dent	Lafayette	Osage	Scotland
Buchanan	Douglas	Lawrence	Pettis	Shannon
Caldwell	Franklin	Lewis	Phelps	Shelby
Callaway	Gasconade	Lincoln	Pike	Stone
Camden	Gentry	Linn	Platte	Sullivan
Carroll	Greene	Livingston	Polk	Texas
Cass	Grundy	McDonald	Pulaski	Vernon
Cedar	Harrison	Macon	Putnam	Warren
Chariton	Henry	Maries	Ralls	Washington
Christian	Hickory	Marion	Randolph	Webster
Clark	Holt	Mercer	Ray	Worth
Clay	Howard	Miller	Reynolds	Wright
Clinton	Howell		-	.

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In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, Bates, Carter, Madison, Ozark, Perry, Ripley, Taney, and Wayne Counties, and the independent city of St. Louis, Missouri, are named as contiguous disaster areas.

On July 12, 2012, I designated the remaining 17 Missouri counties as primary natural disaster counties due to this disaster. Consequently, those counties are already eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) assistance.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous disaster areas eligible to be considered for assistance from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses, security available, and repayment ability

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilkack

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Secretary